

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice December 9, 2005

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published November 28, 2005 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Tom McBride, Chairperson of the NCJJ.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Michael Behm, Linda Benjamin, Lawrence Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Ron Johns, Thomas McBride, Kay McMinn (arrived 10:10), Justin Mickles, Mark Montgomery (arrived 10:20), Kathy Moore (arrived 11:10), Gerard Piccolo, Tanya Terry, and Jerry Watson. **Members excused:** James Blue, Charles Brewster, Austin Brockmeier, John Clark, Christopher Connolly, Tom Dorwart, Kylee Hoffmaster, Tim O'Dea, Danielle Reinke, Elaine Menzel, and Gerald Ruiz. **Members absent:** Frank Jensen, Audra Liebig, Terry Medina, Nancy Oats, and Todd Reckling. **Staff present:** Eli McBride, Monica Miles-Steffens, Nancy Steeves, and Stephanie Vensky.

McBride offered his regrets that Judge Dorwart was unable to attend the meeting and shower the group with some of his favorite Christmas carols.

III. Approval of September 16, 2005 Minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Gendler and seconded by Piccolo to approve the September 16, 2005 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)

IV. Crime Commission Report

Miles-Steffens reported the information for the Washington D.C. conference is ready to be sent to those who expressed interest and if anyone else is interested in attending please let her know as soon as possible.

Miles-Steffens stated a letter was received from OJJDP representative Tony Corio, before he left OJJDP, regarding his site visit in August stating he was impressed with all the programs and no major recommendations were made. Miles-Steffens introduced Ellen Shields Fletcher as the new OJJDP representative at the September meeting, but she has also left OJJDP. The new representative is Linda Rosen.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

a. Executive: Three Year Plan, Appointments

McBride stated the Coalition needs someone to fill the position representing an Alternative to Incarceration program. He asked if anyone had recommendations to let him know.

b. DMC

Jen Janovec reported on the Regional DMC conference held in Des Moines, Iowa. She said the DMC coordinators from several other states attended and discussion was held on what DMC is doing in the different states and their DMC initiatives. She attended a session on data collection, which she would like to bring into Nebraska.

Janovec said she is working on the comprehensive plans for various counties and at the same time collecting data for the federal reports.

c. Grant Review

Piccolo reported they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the juvenile grant applications, which are due January 13, 2006. Miles-Steffens added the grant review dates will be held February 22, 23, & 24.

d. Youth

Eli reported Kylee Hoffmaster was appointed as Chair of the Youth Committee at the September 16th meeting. He said the main focus is to get the youth members together and plan a retreat to establish some ground rules for how the youth can get more involved.

VI. Approve payment of lunch

Motion

A motion was made by Johns and seconded by Montgomery to approve funds to provide lunch. Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Hawekotte, Johns, McMinn, Mickles, Montgomery, Piccolo, Terry, and Watson. Gendler abstained. (Motion carried).

VII. Sub-grantee Presentation(s)

McBride introduced Wilma Arp, Chief Officer of the Platte Valley Diversion Program. She started by sharing some stories of kids that have entered the program, their hardships and how the program helped change their lives to become successful. She said their community has a growing Latino population and with the help of the Crime Commission funding they were able to hire a bi-lingual diversion officer. This has helped address the language and culture barrier to get more youth involved in diversion.

Wilma gave an overview of the different programs funded by the Crime Commission that help kids and their families become successful within the community. She provided a copy of the Mental Health brochures in English and Spanish which provide information on community counseling, intervention, educational services and information to assist parents & caregivers by providing identifying factors to watch for in youth when addressing mental health issues.

Jackie Schmitz from Otoe County Coalition for Children, Youth & Families gave a presentation on the County's Three year Comprehensive Plan. She gave a brief description of the overall community and the issues that need to be addressed. She provided a handout reflecting the 3 goals of the program, which are 1) Parent Education and Involvement 2) Prevention of Youth Risk Behaviors and 3) Systems Development for Serving Youth Offenders, and the objectives used to meet those goals.

Jackie outlined the proposed priorities for the upcoming year. Those priorities are to evaluate the current system and develop a new three year plan, sustain services & strategies, expand after school programming to other Otoe County communities, educate the community about the current Juvenile Justice System, and to choose future priorities for 2007 and beyond. She also provided an outline of the total number of participants in the Juvenile Diversion program and their outcomes.

VIII. Report on Federal Advisory Committee: Tom McBride

McBride reported on the Federal Advisory meeting held in San Antonio in October. He said there was discussion held on the different things that the committee can or can not do. They discussed the problems across the states with DMC and Mental Health issues and they want the programs to be based data driven.

Gendler left the meeting at 11:35.

IX. Approve County Aid applications

There are none to be approved at this time.

The meeting broke briefly to distribute lunch.

X. Report on submission of LB259 report

McBride reported a final draft of the report is complete and a copy of that was emailed to all the members of the Coalition. He said they would be meeting with Senator Jensen to present the report. The report defines what a youth care worker is, made a recommendation that HHS get more support and have a licensing person to check on training being offered, and a template of training elements that need to be provided.

XI. Report on Compliance Monitoring: Eli McBride

Eli stated the year end statistics do not have accurate numbers yet, but should be similar to last year. He reminded everyone he would be leaving in January and asked that everyone be patient after the new Compliance Monitor is hired.

XII. Report on County Planning Efforts: Jennifer Janovec, JJI

Janovec said she has been helping counties across the state to write their county plans. She said an additional 10 counties have contacted her to help with their plans. She said she has also been working with the diversion programs on DMC issues and their data collection.

XIII. Public Comment

None

XIV. New Business/Future Agenda Items:

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Vensky
Staff Support